

back in doing their work in Iraq. The amendment states that the United States pursued sustained diplomatic, political, and economic efforts to remove the so-called threat peacefully. That is wrong. We said to the United Nations, "Get out of the way. You're irrelevant." We said to the international community, "You're either with us or against us." Before we removed Saddam, we removed Hans Blix. The amendment says we eliminated terrorist infrastructure in Afghanistan and Iraq. Just read the morning paper and you will know that is not true. They have plenty of terrorist infrastructure, and they are killing our soldiers every day.

As I have said many times before, the majority is only interested in the needs of the campaign, not the needs of the country. We have serious work to do, and they are playing political games. If we really supported our troops, we would pay for this war. Instead, we are telling our troops that they not only have to fight the war, they have to come home and pay for it, too.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend from Kentucky, if the Senator yields back his time, we will yield back our time and go to a vote on this matter.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I yield the remainder of my time.

Mr. REID. We yield the time on our side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. All time has been yielded back.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment (No. 1795), as modified. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) is necessarily absent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 372 Leg.]

#### YEAS—98

Akaka	Collins	Hagel
Alexander	Conrad	Harkin
Allard	Cornyn	Hatch
Allen	Corzine	Hutchison
Baucus	Craig	Inhofe
Bayh	Crapo	Inouye
Bennett	Daschle	Jeffords
Biden	Dayton	Johnson
Bingaman	DeWine	Kennedy
Bond	Dodd	Kerry
Boxer	Dole	Kohl
Breaux	Domenici	Kyl
Brownback	Dorgan	Landrieu
Bunning	Durbin	Lautenberg
Burns	Edwards	Leahy
Byrd	Ensign	Levin
Campbell	Enzi	Lieberman
Cantwell	Feingold	Lincoln
Carper	Feinstein	Lott
Chafee	Fitzgerald	Lugar
Chambliss	Frist	McCain
Clinton	Graham (SC)	McConnell
Cochran	Grassley	Mikulski
Coleman	Gregg	Miller

Murkowski	Rockefeller	Stabenow
Murray	Santorum	Stevens
Nelson (FL)	Sarbanes	Sununu
Nelson (NE)	Schumer	Talent
Nickles	Sessions	Thomas
Pryor	Shelby	Voinovich
Reed	Smith	Warner
Reid	Snowe	Wyden
Roberts	Specter	

NAYS—1

Hollings

NOT VOTING—1

Graham (FL)

The amendment (No. 1795), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1796, AS MODIFIED

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I send a modification of my amendment, No. 1796, to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The amendment is so modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:  
SEC. \_\_\_\_ (a) PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR SECURITY AND STABILIZATION OF IRAQ THROUGH PARTIAL SUSPENSION OF REDUCTIONS IN HIGHEST INCOME TAX RATE FOR INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS.—The table contained in paragraph (2) of section 1(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to (relating to reductions in rates after June 30, 2001) is amended to read as follows:

"In the case of taxable years beginning during calendar year:	The corresponding percentages shall be substituted for the following percentages:			
	28%	31%	36%	39.6%
2001 .....	27.5%	30.5%	35.5%	39.1%
2002 .....	27.0%	30.0%	35.0%	38.6%
2003 and 2004 .....	25.0%	28.0%	33.0%	35.0%
2005 and thereafter .....	25.0%	28.0%	33.0%	38.2%".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2004.

(c) APPLICATION OF EGTRRA SUNSET TO THIS SECTION.—The amendment made by this section shall be subject to title IX of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 to the same extent and in the same manner as the provision of such Act to which such amendment relates.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. BIDEN. I am happy to yield.

Mr. REID. We have spoken to the chief sponsors of this amendment, Senators BIDEN and KERRY. There is a tentative agreement on our side as to how much time will be used. The floor staffs are working now to see if we can enter into an agreement in the next little bit. In the meantime, rather than waste valuable floor time, Senator BIDEN is going to begin his debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am prepared to enter into a time agreement.

In the meantime, rather than waste time, let me begin to discuss my amendment.

We had a debate yesterday, an opening debate about whether we should be moving forward with this legislation for \$87 billion to fund the war. Again, for those who may be listening, I want to state where I, as they say in the vernacular, come from on this score.

I have been one among many, from Senator REED, former West Point graduate, an Army officer, a U.S. Senator, to JOHN MCCAIN, to CHUCK HAGEL, on both sides of the aisle, among those who have said that our biggest problem is we have not, quite frankly, devoted sufficient resources in a timely way to winning the peace in Iraq. So I began from the premise that there is no doubt we have to spend billions of more dollars. There is no doubt we have to keep in Iraq tens of thousands of American troops for some time. As a matter of fact, I said that as long ago as July of 2002.

I approach this thing from the perspective of one who thinks we must do more. I have several basic problems with the approach we are taking. I know the Presiding Officer and I had a very brief conversation about this. He made reference yesterday to me, that I was somewhat exercised in my presentation yesterday. I was. I am, because I think there is such a gigantic opportunity here to enhance the security interests of the United States.

So, again, the reason I bother to say this is, I think there are two serious problems with the approach the President is taking now relative to this \$87 billion. One is, I think that after examination—and I will have several more amendments before this debate is over—I think there is some padding in this reconstruction money.

I am one who believes you cannot bring security to Iraq without bringing basic services to Iraq. I think there is a direct and immediate correlation. Those who say you can separate support for the military and reconstruction money either have not been to Iraq or don't think we should be in Iraq or, with all due respect, don't understand the dynamics.

The degree to which clean water doesn't flow, the degree to which young women are being raped in the streets, the degree to which police officers are afraid to go to their stations and do their job, the degree to which the electric lights do not go on, the degree to which the oil pipelines are blown up, there is a direct correlation between that and the danger posed to our troops, the danger posed to our being able to preserve the peace or bring about or win the peace. So I don't make that dichotomy between reconstruction moneys and moneys relating to "supporting our troops."

Reconstruction money will support our troops. It supports our troops. My disagreement with the President is that—I am not talking about past disagreements and mistakes made or not